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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Bureau of Water
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

June 2002

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act, the Illinois EPA receives federal funds to implement nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects in cooperation with local units of government and other organizations. Precipitation moving over and through the ground picks up pollutants from farms, cities, mined lands, and other landscapes and carries these pollutants into rivers, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater. This is NPS pollution; major sources in Illinois are agriculture, construction erosion, urban runoff, hydrologic modifications, and resource extraction activities. The program emphasizes funding for implementing corrective and preventative best management practices (BMPs) on a watershed scale; demonstration of new and innovative BMPs on a non-watershed scale; and the development of information/education NPS pollution control programs.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Congress has appropriated funding annually since 1990. The national appropriation for Section 319 in 2002 was over $231 million, with $9,540,100 allocated to Illinois.

ELIGIBILITY

State and local governmental units, citizen and environment groups, individuals, and businesses are eligible to receive Section 319(h) funds to carry out approved NPS management projects that implement appropriate NPS pollution control BMPs or enhance the public's awareness of NPS pollution. Examples of funded activities include streambank and shoreline stabilization, wetland restoration, stormwater detention basins, bio-swales, terraces, waterways, sediment basins, nutrient management, and education programs such as exhibits, videos, manuals, and brochures. Activities required by law or subject to state or federal permit regulations are ineligible.

TERMS OF GRANT

A financial assistance agreement between the Illinois EPA and the applicant is executed for approved projects to specify the scope of work, schedule, and budget. The maximum federal funding is 60 percent of the total project cost. The remaining 40 percent is the responsibility of the applicant. This local match can be cash or in-kind services but cannot be federal funds or funds used to match another federal program. These agreements provide funding on a reimbursement basis and costs must be incurred before the recipient can receive money under the program. Project length is two years unless approved otherwise. Costs incurred before and/or after the project period as stipulated in the agreement are considered ineligible items.

GRANT APPLICTION REQUIREMENTS

The submittal period for Section 319(h) financial assistance applications to the Illinois EPA is June 1 to August 1 of each year. Submittals must include a complete Section 319(h) Financial Assistance Application Package. Copies of the application package can be obtained by contacting the Illinois EPA as indicated below or from the Illinois EPA's web page. Information required in the application includes: 1) Problem Statement, 2) Project Description and Purpose, 3) Relationship to Other Activities, 4) Scope of Work and Schedule, and 5) Estimated Costs. Section 319(h) funds are sometimes available for NPS monitoring projects, however, a Quality Assurance Program Plan is required at the time of application.

CONTACT

For further information on the NPS Pollution Control Program and Section 319 funding, contact the Nonpoint Source Unit, Watershed Management Section, Bureau of Water at 217/782-3362.

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